

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A snap fastening ~~adapted for~~ fixing a thin wall, such as a housing wall, door leaf, or shutter, ~~or the like~~, which is provided with an opening, to a wall support, such as a housing frame, door frame, wall opening edge, ~~or the like~~, which is likewise provided with an opening, comprising:

a base part that can be arranged at the wall support in its opening;

a head part which extends away from ~~this~~ the base part and which has a diameter that initially increases and then decreases again in its longitudinal section from an end of the head part in direction of the base part;

said head part being a male-plug-in part which, by overcoming a spring force acting radially outward in direction of the diameter, can be received by an undercut female plug-in part that is formed or carried by the opening of the thin wall;

said head part ~~being having~~ a guide or channel ~~for one or two or more to accommodate at least two~~ push elements or holding elements which are pushed by at least one spring into a position in which they project out over the end of the guide or channel;

ends of the push elements or holding elements projecting from the guide or channel being triangular or ball-shaped in a projection plane extending perpendicular to the thin wall;

said base part being formed ~~by with~~ a plate which overlaps the longitudinal edges of the opening in the thin wall; and

~~said base part having substantially the same construction, in particular a mirror inverted construction of the head part.~~

~~said snap fastening having an additional base part with an additional head part, said additional base part and head part having substantially the same construction as the other base part and head part, said base parts lying at opposite sides of said base plate so as to function as a connector between the thin wall and the wall support, said snap fastening is shaped in such a way that one set of base part and head part is self-locking in an insertion direction against the spring force and engages the edges of one of the openings of one of the thin walls or the wall support by the ends of the push elements or holding elements so as to cover the contacting edges of said opening and the other set of base part and head part is received on the other opening of the other of the thin wall or wall support to cover the contacting edges of said other opening, therefore maintaining the connection between the thin wall and the support wall.~~

37. (canceled) The snap fastening according to claim 36, wherein the two parts have a common base plate lying between them.

38. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 37 36, wherein the base plate of the head part is formed or carried by the web of the base part.

39. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 37 36, wherein the base part has a greater longitudinal extension than the head part and, with its web, forms support shoulders for the thin wall.

40. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 37 36, wherein the free ends of the holding or push elements of the base part have an asymmetric roof shape such that the base part can be inserted into a suitable opening in a thin wall or wall support by inserting the longitudinally displaceable holding or push elements while guiding the part of the roof shape with the flatter inclination, but a backward movement while guiding the steeper part of the roof is impossible because the holding or push elements are self-locking in their guide.

41. (previously presented) The snap fastening according to claim 36, wherein a tool such as a key which is capable of pulling back the holding and push elements against the spring force by turning it can be inserted from the front and/or back into the housing comprising the self-locking snap fastening.

42. (canceled) The snap fastening according to claim 36, as connector for two thin walls, such as sheet metal, which are provided at the connection location with openings, wherein the base part and head part have a shared housing with holding elements which are arranged in both parts in an approximately mirror-inverted manner with respect to the center line of the housing and which are shaped in such a way that they are self-locking in the insertion direction against spring force and engage the edges of the opening by an inclined surface, and that which covers the contacting edges of the opening in one wall and which can be received by the opening in the second wall extends along the outer wall of the housing at the height of the inclined surface of the holding elements of the head part substantially parallel to the insertion direction.

43. (withdrawn) A snap fastening adapted for fixing a thin wall, such as a housing wall, door leaf, shutter, or the like, which is provided with an opening, to a wall support such as a housing frame, door frame, wall opening edge, or the like, which is likewise provided with an opening, comprising: a base part that can be arranged at the wall support in its opening; a head part which extends away from this base part and which has a diameter that initially increases and then decreases again in its longitudinal section from the end of the head part in direction of the base part, which head part is a male plug-in part which, by overcoming a spring force acting radially outward in direction of the diameter, can be received by an undercut female plug-in part that is formed or carried by the opening of the thin wall; said head part being a guide or channel for one or two or more push elements or holding elements which are pushed by at least one spring into a position in which they project out over the end of the guide or channel; ends of the push elements or holding elements projecting from the guide or channel being triangular or ball-shaped in a projection plane extending perpendicular to the thin wall; said base part being formed by a plate which overlaps the longitudinal edges of the opening in the thin wall; said housing being provided with fastening cams which can be clipped into a through-opening in the thin wall; and an actuating wheel or rotary knob or key by which the push elements can be pulled back in the housing project from the housing.

44. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 43, wherein the actuating wheel locks in the open position.

45. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 36, wherein a grip device projects from the housing.

46. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 43, wherein the fastening cams are replaced by spring parts which can be inserted into the housing.

47. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 43, wherein the rotary knob and/or the housing have/has markings that indicate the operating position of the push elements (open, closed).

48. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 47, wherein the marking on the housing (on the rotary knob) is a colored dot or surface region, and the marking at the rotary knob (at the housing) is at least a notch or an opening which is arranged in such a way that it allows the colored dot or surface region to be seen in a certain position of the rotary knob relative to the housing (e.g., ~~in two end positions~~).

49. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 48, wherein the rotary knob forms a flange which has the color markings, and ~~in that~~ the flange or base part of the housing forms the notches or openings.

50. (previously presented) The snap fastening according to claim 40, wherein the housing comprises a snap fastening which is not self-locking as well as a snap fastening which is self-locking.

51. (previously presented) The snap fastening according to claim 50, wherein the two types of snap fastening are arranged in the housing so as to be offset relative to one another with respect to the distance from the plane of the thin wall.

52. (currently amended) A drawer or rack with a ~~thin walled~~ front plate and a receptacle, wherein the front plate is the thin wall and the drawer receptacle is the wall support according to claim 36, and further comprising ~~a~~ at least one snap fastening ~~or a plurality of snap fastenings~~ according to claim 36.

53. (currently amended) A cabinet with a thin wall and a wall support according to claim 36, and provided with at least one ~~or door leaf, further comprising~~ a snap fastening ~~or a plurality of snap fastenings~~ according to claim 36.

54. (previously presented) A cabinet according to claim 53, wherein one or more handles or recessed grips are arranged in openings in the thin wall in which a snap fastening similar to that of the base part according to claim 36 engages.

55. (currently amended) A cabinet according to claim 54, wherein the thin wall has webs with openings for receiving the symmetrically roof-shaped ends of the non-self-locking snap fastening (~~not self locking~~) according to claim 36.

56. (currently amended) A snap fastening ~~adapted for~~ fixing a thin wall, such as a housing wall, door leaf, or shutter, ~~or the like~~, which is provided with an opening, to a wall support, such as a housing frame, door frame, or wall opening edge, ~~or the like~~, which is likewise provided with an opening, comprising:

a base part that can be arranged at the wall support in its opening;

a head part which extends away from said base part and which has a diameter that initially increases and then decreases again in its longitudinal section from the end of the head part in direction of the base part, ~~which the~~ the head part is being a male plug-in part which, by overcoming a spring force acting radially outward in direction of the diameter, can be received by an undercut female plug-in part that is formed or carried by the opening of the thin wall;

said head part being a guide or channel for one or two or more push elements or holding elements which are pushed by means of at least one spring into a position in which they project out over the end of the guide or channel, and the ends of the push elements or holding elements projecting from the guide or channel being triangular or ball-shaped in a projection plane extending perpendicular to the thin wall;

said base part being formed by a plate which overlaps the longitudinal edges of the opening in the thin wall; and

said push elements comprising two disk-like plates which lie next to one another or one behind the other so as to be displaceable, each of the two plates having an opening which is elongated in the movement direction and which forms, individually or jointly, a receiving space for a spiral pressure spring.

57. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 56, wherein, for the common receiving space for the spring, the openings are arranged so as to be moved away from the ball-shaped or triangular free ends in such a way that the shared spring forces the two plates apart in their movement direction.

58. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 56, wherein the edges of the openings have projections or recesses for fixing the spring and the plates.

59. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 57, wherein the two plates have a notch at their outer longitudinal edge for limiting their longitudinal movement by means of a shoulder, projection, plug, or pin which projects into the notch.

60. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 57, wherein the two plates are guided so as to be displaceable longitudinally in a U-shaped housing whose leg ends are fastened to a base plate formed by the base part or are formed integral with the base plate.

61. (withdrawn) The snap fastening according to claim 60, wherein the U-shaped housing has an opening in the web area for receiving a pin or plug.

62. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 36, wherein the base part ~~comprises a~~ is secured by screw bolts.

63. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 36, wherein the base part is formed ~~by a fastening plate provided with~~ fastening holes.

64. (previously presented) The snap fastening according to claim 36, wherein the base part is formed by a plate which overlaps the longitudinal edges of the opening in the thin wall.

65. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 64, wherein the base part is a side of a pressed metal profile ~~such as an aluminum profile~~.

66. (currently amended) The snap fastening according to claim 64, wherein the base part is a side of a rolled sheet-metal profile ~~such as a sheet steel profile~~.

67. (previously presented) The snap fastening according to claim 64, wherein the base part is a side of an injection-molded plastic profile.

68. (canceled) The snap fastening according to claim 64, wherein the base part has substantially the same construction, in particular a mirror-inverted construction of the head part.

69. (withdrawn) A snap fastening adapted for fixing a thin wall, such as a housing wall, door leaf, shutter, or the like, which is provided with an opening, to a wall support such as a housing frame, door frame, wall opening edge, or the like, which is likewise provided with an opening, comprising: a base part that can be arranged at the wall support in its opening; a head part which extends away from this base part and which has a diameter that initially increases and then decreases again in its longitudinal section from the end of the head part in direction of the base part; said head part being a male plug-in part which, by overcoming a spring force acting radially outward in direction of the diameter, can be received by an undercut female plug-in part that is formed or carried by the opening of the thin wall; said head part being a guide or channel for one or two or more push elements or holding elements which are pushed by at least one spring into a position in which they project out over the end of the guide or channel; ends of the push elements or holding elements projecting from the guide or channel are triangular or ball-shaped in a projection plane extending perpendicular to the thin wall; said base part being formed by a plate which overlaps the longitudinal edges of the opening in the thin wall; said holding elements being lever arranged at a distance from the thin wall so as to be rotatable around an axis parallel to the plane of the thin wall.

70. (withdrawn) The snap fastening adapted for fixing a thin wall, such as a housing wall, door leaf, shutter, or the like, which is provided with an opening, to a wall support such as a housing frame, door frame, wall opening edge, or the like, which is likewise provided with an opening, with a base part that can be arranged at the wall support in its opening, comprising: a head part which extends away from this base part and which has a diameter that initially increases and then decreases again in its longitudinal section from the end of the head part in direction of the base part; said head part being a male plug-in part which, by overcoming a spring force acting radially outward in direction of the diameter, can be received by an undercut female plug-in part that is formed or carried by the opening of the thin wall, whereby the head part is a guide or channel for one or two or more push elements or holding elements which are pushed by means of at least one spring into a position in which they project out over the end of the guide or channel; ends of the push elements or holding elements projecting from the guide or channel are triangular or ball-

shaped in a projection plane extending perpendicular to the thin wall; said base part being formed by a plate which overlaps the longitudinal edges of the opening in the thin wall; and said holding elements being levers arranged at a distance from the thin wall so as to be rotatable around an axis perpendicular to the plane of the thin wall.